

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical connector for receiving an integrated circuit (IC) package, the connector comprising:

a base defining a plurality of passageways with a plurality of conductive terminals received therein;

a cover slidably mounted on the base, the cover comprising two opposite sidewalls thereof;

a metallic stiffener engaged with the cover;

at least one operating member for actuating the cover to move relative to the base, the at least one operating member comprising a pair of operating levers, one of the operating levers engaged with the stiffener and the other operating lever engaged with the base;

a lid engaged with the at least one operating member for pivotably moving the operating levers; and

a plurality of coil springs connected between the lid and the base;

wherein when an up-and-down movement of the operating member causes a pivoting movement of the operating lever to move the stiffener and the cover back-and-forth relative to the base thereby disconnecting and connecting the terminals with the leads of the IC package during applying an unduly force on the lid, one of the sidewalls of the cover attaches an inner face of the stiffener causing the stiffener to protect the plastic cover from damage due to a proportion of the cover undergoing too great a force.

2. The electrical connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stiffener is a substantially rectangular frame and comprises four sides and a central opening disposed between the sides for receiving the cover therein.

3. The electrical connector as claimed in claim 2, wherein one of the sides

defines a pair of spaced, aligned projections on two opposite ends thereof, and the opposite side defines a pair of posts in a middle portion thereof.

4. The electrical connector as claimed in claim 3, wherein a pair of first receiving grooves is defined in bottoms of the projections respectively.

5. The electrical connector as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a pair of inserting plates mounted to the lid, and a pair of operating members pivotably mounted to the corresponding inserting plates.

6. The electrical connector as claimed in claim 5, wherein each operating member comprises a first shaft engaged with the receiving groove of the stiffener, a second shaft engaged with the base, a first operating lever attached to the first shaft, and a second operating lever mounted to the second shaft.

7. The electrical connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base comprises four first latches each having a first hook, and the lid comprises four second latches each having a second hook, the second latch and the second hook respectively corresponding to the first latch and the first hook.

8. The electrical connector as claimed in claim 7, wherein a pair of tenons is formed on the base, and a pair of cutouts is defined in the lid, the tenons engaged with the cutouts thereby restraining the lid to move only in a vertical direction.

9. The electrical connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base comprises a main portion defining four retaining slots, and four blind holes for receiving the coil springs.

10. The electrical connector as claimed in claim 9, wherein the base comprises a pair of second receiving grooves for receiving the second shafts of the operating members.

11. A connector for receiving and testing a central processing unit (CPU), the connector comprising:

- a base defining a plurality of passageways with a plurality of conductive terminals received therein;

- a cover slidably mounted on the base;

- a metallic stiffener engaged with the cover;

- a pair of operating members actuating the stiffener and the cover to move relative to the base, each of the operating members comprising a first operating lever engaged with the stiffener and a second operating lever engaged with the base;

- a lid movably engaged with the base;

- a pair of inserting plates fastened to the lid and pivotably engaged with the operating members, thereby the lid engaged with the operating members for pivotably moving the first and second operating levers; and

- a plurality of coil springs connected between the base and the lid;

wherein when an up-and-down movement of the operating member causes a pivoting movement of the operating lever to move the stiffener and the cover back-and-forth relative to the base thereby disconnecting and connecting the terminals with the leads of the CPU during applying an unduly force on the lid, the cover attaches an inner face of the stiffener causing the stiffener to protect the plastic cover from damage due to a proportion of the cover undergoing too great a force.

12. The connector as claimed in claim 11, wherein the stiffener is a substantially

rectangular frame and comprises four sides and a central opening disposed between the sides for receiving the cover therein.

13. The connector as claimed in claim 12, wherein one of the sides defines a pair of spaced, aligned projections on two opposite ends thereof, and the opposite side defines a pair of posts in a middle portion thereof.

14. The connector as claimed in claim 13, wherein a pair of first receiving grooves is defined in bottoms of the projections respectively.

15. The connector as claimed in claim 11, wherein the operating member comprises a first shaft engaged with the first operating lever, and a second shaft engaged with the second operating lever.

16. The connector as claimed in claim 15, wherein the first shafts of the operating members are received in the first receiving grooves of the stiffener, and the base defines a pair of second receiving grooves for receiving the second shafts of the operating members.

17. An electrical connector for receiving an integrated circuit (IC) package, the connector comprising:

- a base defining a plurality of passageways with a plurality of conductive terminals received therein;

- a cover mounted on the base and moveable along back-and-forth horizontal directions;

- a metallic stiffener engaged with the cover in the said back-and-forth horizontal directions;

- a lid mounted to the base and moveable relative to the base in opposite

up-and-down vertical directions;

at least one operating member for actuating the cover to move relative to the base, one end of the operating members pivotally engaged with the stiffener and the other end pivotally engaged with the lid; and

a spring located between the lid and the base to urge said lid and said base away from each other in the vertical directions; wherein

an up-and-down movement of the lid results in clockwise-and-counterclockwise rotation of the operating member, thus further resulting in co-movement of the stiffener and the cover relative to the base along said back-and-forth horizontal directions thereby disconnecting and connecting the terminals with the leads of the IC package.